



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

FEBRUARY 7, 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GLADSTONE MAN SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Gladstone, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for his role in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

Brent L. Francis, 27, of Gladstone, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to 10 years in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 19, 2004, **Francis** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. By pleading guilty, **Francis** admitted that he conspired to distribute methamphetamine from Aug. 6, 2003, until Aug. 25, 2003. Specifically, **Francis** admitted that he distributed a total of 27.73 grams of pure methamphetamine.

Francis is the first of two co-defendants to be sentenced in this case.

On Dec. 14, 2004, **Mark W. Caldarello**, 53, of Kansas City, also pleaded guilty to his role in the methamphetamine conspiracy. **Caldarello** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine from Aug. 6, 2003, until Aug. 25, 2003.

Caldarello also pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm on Aug. 14, 2003. By pleading guilty, **Caldarello** admitted that he was in possession of a Sig Sauer 9 mm pistol on Aug. 14, 2003. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Caldarello** has a 1975 criminal felony conviction for robbery, two 1996 criminal felony convictions for stealing, and a 2003 criminal felony conviction for forgery.

Caldarello may be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in federal prison without parole, up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$2 million.

Francis and **Caldarello** were originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on June 29, 2004, in Kansas City.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David DeTar Newbert. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Metro Meth Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow